

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3186

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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ROME FOR ILLING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, VT

SUBJ: PASTORAL LETTER OF JUNE 18

REF: A. LISBON 3425; B. LISBON 3323; C. LISBON 3438

SUMMARY: AS REPORTED REFTEL (A) PORTUGUESE BISHOPS HAVE ISSUED PASTORAL LETTER WHICH WARNS GOP THAT CHURCH IS HIGHLY ALARMED BY CURRENT TRENDS IN PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION AND THAT, INsofar AS CHURCH ITSELF IS INVOLVED, IT WILL BE PUSHED AROUND NO FURTHER. COMING ON EVE OF DRAMATIC STREET CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CHURCH'S DEFENDERS AND ATTACKERS OVER RADIO RENASCENCA ISSUE, LETTER SETS STAGE FOR POSSIBLE CHURCH/STATE SHOWDOWN. END SUMMARY

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1. PORTUGUESE BISHOPS ISSUED PASTORAL LETTER JUNE 18 DEALING WITH FOLLOWING: SOCIAL CLIMATE, ARRESTS/PURGES, EDUCATION, AND FREEDOM OF PRESS. WHILE LANGUAGE IS FORMAL AND POLITE, CONTENT DISPLAYS DEGREE OF MILITANCY AND RESERVE TOWARD GOP THAT CLEARLY WARNS OF POSSIBILITY THAT A CHURCH/ STATE BREAK LIES DOWN THE PIKE.

2. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS: MOST "SINS" OF THOSE IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY ARE ONES OF OMISSION. TODAY CHURCH IS ATTACKED FOR ITS SILENCE UNDER OLD REGIME; WILL A FUTURE GENERATION CONDEMN CHURCH FOR SILENCE ON CURRENT SITUATION? REPEATING PREVIOUS STATEMENTS WELCOMING APRIL 1974 REVOLUTION AND PRINCIPLES IT ORIGINALLY ENUNCIATED, LETTER SAID IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE PRINCIPLES HAS SUFFERED "SUBSTANTIAL ALTERATIONS" WHICH GIVE CAUSE FOR CONCERN: "ONE CAN OBSERVE ALREADY THAT TODAY 'PURGE' AND 'VILIGANCE' ARE HEARD MORE THAN 'FREEDOM.'" DEEMPHASIS ON FREEDOM CAUSES CHURCH SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS AND TO FEAR PORTUGAL IS ON ROAD TO TOTALITARIANISM. UNDER PAIN OF BETRAYING REVOLUTION'S ENUNCIATED PRINCIPLES, LETTER INVITED "ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PORTUGUESE LIFE" TO CORRECT THESE DIVERGENCES RAPIDLY.

3. SOCIAL CLIMATE: DENOUNCING "ANARCHIC DISINTEGRATION" OF PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENTAL/SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND INSTITUTIONS, LETTER WARNED THAT SUCH DISINTEGRATION LAYS WAY OPEN FOR GROUPS ARROGATING TO SELVES POWERS OF THE STATE. "THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE INCREASINGLY WANT AND DEMAND LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CAPABLE OF GUARANTEEING THEM LIBERTY IN WHICH TO ENJOY THEIR RIGHTS." LETTER RECALLED THAT POLITICAL TRAUMA ANARCHY CREATES LED FIFTY YEARS AGO TO INSTALLATION OF DICTATORSHIP. BISHOPS HAVE BEEN PROFOUNDLY DISTURBED" BY ORIENTATION OF CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION PROGRAMS ADVOCATING AS APPROPRIATE MODELS THE TOTALITARIAN COMMUNIST REGIMES OF EASTERN EUROPE.

4. ARRESTS/PURGES: DENOUNCING OF NUMEROUS ARBITRARY ARRESTS, LETTER CALLED FOR GOP AUTHORITIES TO SEPARATE THOSE SUSPECTED OF WRONGDOING FROM THOSE AGAINST WHOM NO EVIDENCE HAS BEEN ADDUCED. AS FOR PURGES, MANY HAVE OCCURRED FOR POLITICAL REASONS OR OUT OF VENGEANCE, WITH NO REGARD FOR JUSTICE.

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CONSEQUENT EMIGRATION OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED PEOPLE PORTUGAL CAN ILL AFFORD TO LISE COMES ON TOP OF LOSSES OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS SUSTAINED IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

5. EDUCATION: MATERIALIST AND ATHEIST IDEOLOGIES ARE STEADILY INFILTRATING SCHOOLS WHILE SO-CALLED "ADMINISTRATIVE" MEASURES ARE INCAPACITATING CHURCH'S EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY. "THIS PLACES FREEDOM OF INSTRUCTION IN DANGER." THAT FREE-

DOM IS GUARANTEED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, INASMUCH AS
PORTUGAL'S CONCORDAT WITH VATICAN ASSURES SUCH A ROLE TO CHURCH.

6. FREEDOM OF PRESS: TENDENCY TOWARD MONOPOLISTIC DOMINATION OF NEWS MEDIA HAS BECOME MORE PRONOUNCED, OPENLY VIOLATING CONCEPT OF PLURALISM GOP HAS REPEATEDLY PROCLAIMED. THOSE ORGANS NOT ALREADY DOMINATED ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO ATTACK VIA SPECIOUS PRETEXTS OF LABOR DISPUTES OR INTERNAL CONFLICTS. BISHOPS "HAVE IN MIND CASE OF RADIO RENASCENCA."

7. FINAL THOUGHT: "IT IS ALWAYS THE REVOLUTION, KNOWING NEITHER HOW TO RESTRAIN NOR LIMIT ITSELF, WHICH GIVES BIRTH TO COUNTER-REVOLUTION."

8. COMMENT: CATEGORIES OF SOCIAL CLIMATE, ARRESTS/PURGES, AND FREEDOM OF PRESS ARE ALL SORE SPOTS FOR GOP, WHERE BISHOPS' CRITICISM IS BOUND TO STING; HOWEVER, IT IS IN EDUCATION CATEGORY THAT LETTER'S LANGUAGE AND MESSAGE TO GOP ARE MOST BLUNT, WITH OPEN WARNING THAT ANY EFFORT TO DIMINISH CHURCH'S ROLE WILL BE MET BY PROTEST FROM VATICAN.

9. ALTHOUGH SITUATION AT CHURCH-OWNED RADIO RENASCENCA (RR) REPRESENTS IMMEDIATE POINT OF CHURCH-STATE CONTENTION, UNTIL MOST RECENT DAYS IT APPEARED THIS CRISIS MIGHT SUBSIDE IN CHURCH'S FAVOR THROUGH GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF GOVERNMENT BEFORE BISHOPS' FIGHT TO REGAIN CONTROL (REF B). (PASTORAL LETTER IN FACT DOWNPLAYED RR ISSUE, MENTIONING IT BUT ONCE AND THEN WITHIN CONTEXT SUGGESTING AN INTENT BY BISHOPS MORE TO LEND MORAL SUPPORT TO SOCIALISTS IN THEIR FIGHT TO REGAIN CONTROL OF NEWSPAPER "REPUBLICA" THAN TO PRESS OWN BATTLE.) JUNE 18-19 STREET CONFRONTATION IN FRONT OF EPISCOPAL PALACE OF LISBON'S CARDINAL PATRIARCH HAS CHANGED MATTERS (REF C). REGARDLESS OF WHAT OPPOSING SIDES MAY HAVE INTENDED TO MAKE OF IT, RR BATTLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS DRAMATIZED IN VISIBLE AND EMOTIONAL TERMS CHURCH-STATE CLASH OUTLINED BY PASTORAL LETTER.
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